

COST

- ▶ Submit and receive payment for services online, real-time.
- ▶ Access to information on formulary and patient benefits at the time of prescribing saving on pharmacy call backs and cost of administrative rework.
- ▶ The time used currently calling and tracking down health information to be faxed and filed is reduced or eliminated.

It is clear that a key requirement for success in the adoption of health information exchange is the active involvement of clinicians. An even further measure of success is the degree to which care clinicians use the information available to impact the delivery of care.

By becoming engaged and bringing your voice to your local health information exchange initiative, physicians can help lead the way in the advancement of health information exchange, resulting in a higher quality of healthcare for all Americans.

Physicians and Health Information Exchange—How to Succeed

There are some key attributes that dictate the successful implementation of a health information exchange demonstrated by clinicians in communities where electronic health information exchange has been deployed.

- ▶ Trust and transparency—having a neutral entity that brings together multiple stakeholders.
- ▶ Physician champions—leadership and commitment from physicians is essential to the start and ongoing success.
- ▶ Approaching the process with incremental steps towards a long-term vision and strategy.
- ▶ Higher quality and safer care—prioritize and select

health information exchange functions that make a clinical difference and improve outcomes.

- ▶ Information must be accessible at the point of care and be integrated into routine practice and work flow—it must provide value to the physician and the practice.
- ▶ Data must be current and reliable
- ▶ Ensure privacy and integrity of data for a secure exchange and to preserve the patient-physician relationship.

Why Now?

Health information exchange has emerged as a solution to the physician's challenge in accessing clinical information from various disconnected clinical databases. Consider what happens when information is not available when you need it most. Health information exchange results in a win-win strategy for patients and their physicians, working together in partnership to ensure a safer, more efficient and cost effective healthcare delivery environment.

Health Information Exchange

Physicians and Health Information Exchange

What healthcare providers need to know

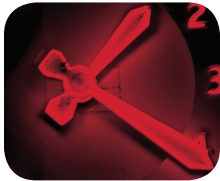


Adopting Health Information Exchange Provides Potential To

- ▶ Provide more complete information at the point of care for more informed treatment decisions;
- ▶ Enhance physician-patient care;
- ▶ Improve efficiency and safety of healthcare delivery.

www.ehealthinitiative.org

Every Second Counts



In the practice of medicine, seconds can mean the difference between life and death. If you have a patient who was in an accident, rushed to the emergency room unconscious

and they have an underlying medical condition or drug allergy, your patient's life depends on timely access to accurate and current information from all their healthcare providers.

As a physician, you've probably faced similar situations where having the information you need, when you need it most, improves the way you practice medicine. The wide adoption of electronic health information exchange creates the infrastructure to improve the quality and safety of healthcare for all Americans.

What is Health Information Exchange?

Health information exchange is a method to electronically move personal health and medical information securely between doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers when it is needed for your patient's care. With consent, health information will be protected and exchanged under current medical privacy and confidentiality standard procedures. Secure electronic health information exchange allows patients and physicians to make sure that patient health information is available when and where it is needed.

Why Do We Need Health Information Exchange?

- ▶ Personal and health information is stored in silos—across hospitals, labs, physician offices, pharmacies, and insurers.
- ▶ To provide timely and effective clinical decision support, information is required from multiple sources at the point of care.
- ▶ A recent report indicated that 31 cents of every healthcare dollar goes towards administrative costs and other expenses, resulting in time and resources pulled from providing clinical care.*
- ▶ Up to \$500 billion is spent on unneeded or duplicative care each year, which is nearly one-third of annual U.S. healthcare spending. Access to information when you need it not only results in better care delivery and medical decisions, it also decreases costs and saves you time by eliminating additional paperwork and procedures.**

Health Information Exchange For Quality, Efficiency and Cost

There are numerous opportunities for the physician to benefit from the use of health information exchange and health information technology.

IMPROVE QUALITY

- ▶ Query patient-specific information at the point of care: eligibility, allergies, prior diagnoses, medication history, labs, immunizations and other providers seen.

“Patients have difficulty remembering important medical information which may affect the healthcare they receive. A health information exchange will enable physicians to have the most up-to-date and accurate health information needed in order to properly care for their patients.”

—PHYSICIAN RESEARCH
EHI, JULY 2006

- ▶ Emergency alerts and situational awareness, including public health alerts, system status, device or medication recalls.
- ▶ Surveillance capability—identify trends in outbreaks, underserved populations and diseases.
- ▶ Infrastructure for decision support for identification of drug-drug, drug-allergy, drug-condition contraindications.

IMPROVE EFFICIENCY

- ▶ Order tests, medications, referrals online and at the point of care.
- ▶ Receive results online—labs, imaging, dispensing records—at the point of care.
- ▶ Enhanced ability to collaborate with shared case management tools and identification of best practices.
- ▶ Patient record access/communications enhanced for e-visits, reminders, scheduling, and recalls.